

of M. Bent's successor. The country is still in a very unsettled condition, the bands of freebooters are numerous, well organised, and well armed, and with a weak or narrow minded man in the position of Resident-General there is every reason to fear that rebellion might lift its head and the country again be plunged in war. The selection of the new Resident-General will therefore be a matter of grave importance to the French Government. That they may select a competent man, one who will carry out the policy of his predecessor, is earnestly to be hoped, but it is hardly likely they will again find a man of such eminence as M. Bent ready to leave his home and brave the climate of Tonquin. It is to the climate we believe that the disease which carried off M. Bent must be attributed. Some months ago it was reported by papers in France that he was suffering from chronic dysentery and would have to vacate his post. This report, however, was warmly denied by the *Hanoi* paper, which treated it as having been set in circulation in order to convey an exaggerated idea of the ill effects of the climate by persons adverse to the Tonquin enterprise. Certain it is that after that time M. Bent moved about, and attended to his duty as usual, and only the other day he set out on a tour through the provinces. It was apparently at the commencement of this tour that he was attacked with the illness which has proved fatal, for in the *Courrier d'Haiphong* of the 31st ultimo we find the following note:—“M. PAUL BENT has returned to Hanoi. We are happy to learn that the fatigue which compelled the Resident-General to resign his journey has happily disappeared and that his health is better than ever.” The latter part of this paragraph has unfortunately not been borne out by facts, the dysentery with which he was previously attacked recurred, and both France and Tonquin have sustained a loss which will be widely felt and sincerely mourned.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG v. FOOCHEW.

The Hongkong team arrived in Foocheow on Sunday afternoon, the 31st October, and the rest of the day was devoted to inspecting the Racquet Tennis Courts and the ground. The cricket ground is a fine piece of turf about 150 yards by 120 yards, and was in beautiful order; the pitch itself appeared hard at first but it was very true during play and very well. On Monday the team practised in their places, and generally passed a quiet day to prepare themselves for the match, which commenced punctually at 10.30 a.m. the following day, the odds being slightly in favour of Hongkong, so far as could be ascertained.

Foocheow won the toss and at once sent in King and Woodley to the bowling of Dawson and Smith. Dawson was very hard to play, and dead on the wicket throughout, while Smith kept well in spite of little success. King was soon bowled by Dawson and Woodley, caught by Lloyd in the long field, which brought in Sanderson, who at once commenced scoring and Phipps, the captain, when a long outing was anticipated, the latter, however, fell to a trumper from Dawson before he had got set, and Bathgate took his place, playing steadily for a useful 9 before he fell to the inevitable last hand. Sanderson meanwhile was playing beautifully, and hitting in every direction, and it was not till another wicket had fallen that he was run out in trying a fourth run, for a capital score of 42 (6 for 7). Phipps was then smartly stumped, and the rest fell quietly, the innings closing for 88, by no means a large score on such a fast wicket. Dawson scored 8 wickets for 30. Smith for 36.

Graham and Bramwell commenced for Hongkong to the bowling of Phillips and Weeks, and ran camp quickly from the first. Graham hitting freely all round, while Bramwell's patient defence defied the most insidious lobs from the Captain. At 34 Graham was well caught by the bowler, for a quick innings of 23, and Sanderson succeeded, but after putting on 4, the decision of the umpire compelled him to leave. In the interval Savage made, Savage cutting and driving in good form; the lobs, however, did not seem to suit him, and he finally fell to Phillips for 21. (3 for 83). Lloyd at once began hitting and the total of Foocheow was soon passed, but after a life at point's hands he fell to the same field at long on (4 for 94), and Smith was shortly after bowled for 1. (5 for 7). The Captain then went in, and a long stand was made, both batsmen playing steadily and well; after ten overs appeared on the board, and various bowlers were tried, but no separation came till Bramwell was bowled off his pads by Phillips for an exceedingly patient 68. (6 for 190). Dawson was bowled for 2, and Foss was then caught at long off for a steady 45, made without a chance. (9 for 195). Sanderson and Jackson hit freely till the stumps were drawn, and the day closed with 9 wickets down for 207.

The following day 16 runs were put on, and the innings closed for 223, Jackson carrying his bat for 11.

Phillips and Symes were the most successful bowlers with 3 wickets for 39 and 2 wickets for 10 respectively, while Weeks worked hard and scored 3 wickets for 71.

With 135 runs against them, Foocheow commenced their second innings in the same order, and a good start was made, the Hongkong fields dropping three catches, one after the other. Sanderson began hitting freely, but at 16 he was well caught by Dawson (2 for 37) in the spirits of the team revived. Woodley played a steady innings of 18, varied by the bowlers, and Jackson hit steadily, Phillips had just begun to hit when he was well caught by Savage at long on for 11. (4 for 49).

The rest of the team gave little trouble, with the exception of Weeks, who carried his bat for 12, and the innings closed for 69 only. Hongkong thus won by 6 in one innings.

Foocheow was most unlucky in obtaining 6 wickets for 10, and 10 runs for 36. Smith for 30.

The following is the score on 8th and 9th November:—

FOOCHEOW.

FOOCHEOW v. HONGKONG.

The match was over on the second day before dinner, and a pick-me-up was arranged for the remainder of the day, but most of the players had to run off to assist at a large fire in the European settlement, which burnt down the Theatre and all the wood work in the Racquet Courts.

In spite, however, of all the scenery and effects prepared for the performance of “Aladdin” being destroyed, the Foochow Amateur Dramatic Society pluckly decided to give the performance in the Club Concert-room on Friday, the 5th instant. Malice-spirited society, &c., was promptly prepared, and a capital performance was given, the audience literally bristling with local hits and allusions, all of which were duly appreciated and applauded.

On Thursday, the 4th, Scanlan and Dawson for Hongkong played Bathgate and Platt for Foochow at Liao Tennis, and won two sets to three—6—4, 6—4, 6—4. Scanlan also defeated Bathgate.

At Quoits Hongkong were also successful, scoring 2 games to 1—21/14, 11/21, 21/28—Jackson and Dawson playing for the winners and Walkington and Barr for Foochow.

Jackson was to have met Weeks in a 100 yds race, but the Hongkong representative sprained his knee, and the race did not come off; in lieu thereof the team tried their powers with the Cricket Ball, and Weeks won for Foochow with a goal throw for 99 yards 2 feet.

In the evening, Weeks afterwards bat Foss for 200 a game at Billiards.

On the 5th most of the team visited Kusshan, and after the performance in the evening several parties started up river to Yuen-Too, till Monday morning.

In shooting Hongkong were nowhere, their bag consisting of a dog, a magpie, and a water-owl!

On Monday and Tuesday, the 8th and 9th inst., a return match was proposed, but on the team arriving on the ground, Dawson and Shepherd were both found to be unable to play, and the game was accordingly commenced with one substitute playing for Hongkong, and one man absent.

The trip up country seemed to have had a bad effect on all the team, as only four more scored, and the innings closed for 94, of which Lloyd hit up 29 in good form and Savage and Graham 21 and 17 respectively.

Phipps scored 3 wickets for 7 runs, Weeks 2 for 26, and Symes 2 for 30.

The Hongkong fielding was also very poor and several catches were dropped, which enabled Foocheow to put on 125. Phipps hitting hard and well for 29, while Weeks played steadily for 28, and Platt and Sanderson secured 18 (not out) and 15 respectively. Savage bowled well, obtaining 5 wickets for 20 runs, while McLean secured 3 for 21.

On the last day Shepherd was able to play, but this made little difference in the batting, and had it not been for Lloyd the score would have been ridiculous small.

Bramwell hit more freely than usual for 21, and he was very well caught at point by Bathgate; Lloyd went in 2nd wicket down and hit freely all the time, but when the 3rd wicket came off, only 89 runs were scored, and one man was absent. McLean however, played up successfully, and before he was bowled for 11, 130 appeared on the board, Lloyd carrying his bat out for a splendid hitting innings of 65, which saved the match.

With 100 to make, it looked any odds on Foocheow, but encouraged by their Shepherd, Hongkong played up well, and they succeeded in dismissing Foocheow (in the absence of Symes) for 73, thus scoring a hard won victory for Hongkong, so far as could be ascertained.

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